Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 15 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/007359 without prejudice.

Please add following new claims as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (new):   A device for predicting the mean time period between two failures of a technical system, the device comprising:

an electronic components list listing all of the maintenance-intensive components of the technical system, with each failure of a component on the list leading to a failure of the system,

an apparatus for acquiring setpoint MTBF values for the components of the components list,

an apparatus for summing all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and

an apparatus for calculating a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values, with the reciprocal value of the sum defining a mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 17 (new):   The device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the device comprises:

an apparatus for acquiring setpoint MTTR values for the components of the components list, and an apparatus for predicting a mean time period for fault recovery after the failure of the technical system, the apparatus calculating the mean time period as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list,

the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the

components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 18 (new): The device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the apparatus for acquiring the setpoint MTTR values comprises means for acquiring setpoint MRT values and setpoint MTD values of the components of the components list and means for calculating the setpoint MTTR value of a component by summing the setpoint MRT value and the setpoint MTD value of the component.

Claim 19 (new): The device as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:
an electronic parts list describing a decomposition of the system into components,
an apparatus for characterizing a component as maintenance intensive, and
an apparatus for generating the electronic components list by determining all the components of the parts list characterized as maintenance intensive.

Claim 20 (new): The device as claimed in claims 16 wherein the electronic components list is valid for a category of technical systems carrying out similar functions, and further comprising an apparatus for generating a comparison of a plurality of systems of the category, the comparison comprising the mean time period, predicted for each system, between two failures of the system.

Claim 21 (new): The device as claimed in claim 20 wherein the comparison-generating apparatus comprises means for generating in each case one partial comparison of the predicted failure frequencies for each component of the components list in the plurality of systems.

Claim 22 (new): The device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the electronic parts list is valid for a category of technical systems carrying out similar functions.

Claim 23 (new): A method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, an electronic components list being predefined, the electronic components list comprising maintenance-intensive components of the technical system in which each failure of a component of the components list leads to a failure of the system,

the method comprising the following steps carried out using an electronic data processing system:

acquiring of a setpoint MTBF value for each component of the components list,

summing of all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and

using a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values as a mean time period predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 24 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising:

additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list, and

calculating of a prediction of a mean time period for fault recovery in the technical system as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list, the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 25 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein when the setpoint MTTR value of at least one component is acquired the following steps are carried out:

acquiring of a setpoint MRT value and of a setpoint MTD value of this component, and

using the sum of the setpoint MRT value and setpoint MTD value of this component as the setpoint MTTR value of this component.

Claim 26 (new):   The method according to claim 23 wherein the components list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions, the prediction is made for a plurality of systems of the category, and a comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times of the plurality of systems is generated.

Claim 27 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein a partial comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times in the plurality of systems is generated for each component of the components list during the generation of the comparison and is inserted into the comparison.

Claim 28 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein, for each component of the components list,

    actual times at which one of the components fails are logged, and

    the one component is compared with the acquired setpoint MTBF value.

Claim 29 (new):   A computer program product loadable directly into an internal memory of a computer and comprises software sections with which a method as claimed in claim 23 can be carried out when the product is running on a computer.

Claim 30 (new):   A computer program product which is stored in a medium readable by a computer, and which has a programming means which can be read by a computer, said means causing the computer to carry out the method as claimed in claim 23.